

GLIMPSES OF WORK WITH CHINESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES

COMPILED BY
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MISS PAULINE SENN

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The Chinese question, so far as the Home Missionary work is concerned, is almost everywhere. One has well said, "No city of any considerable size, the country over, lacks its laundries manned by almond-eyed Celestials and patronized by men and women of Christian churches. How many of these laundrymen have been taught of Him Who cleanseth the sinful heart 'whiter than snow'?"

The Women's Baptist Home Mission Society, now the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, through its missionaries, has been laboring with the Chinese women and children in San Francisco and Oakland, in California, in Portland, Oregon, and in New York City. Of the scope of this work much can be gained from the reports of missionaries as compiled in the following pages.

At the time of the terrible earthquake and fire in San Francisco our missionaries suffered the loss of everything. Their homes, mission houses and personal effects, were all destroyed. The cause for great thanksgiving is that their lives were providentially spared.

First Messages After San Francisco Earthquake and Fire

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, April 24, 1906.

MY DEAR MISS BURDETTE:—I hope my telegram has reached you before this and that you know we missionaries are safe.

The whole affair has been a terrible experience, but we feel that our Heavenly Father has been very kind to us in preserving our lives and permitting us to come away from there so soon.

The house that Miss Clark and I were in rocked, and twisted and creaked in an awful way, but, apparently, there was little damage done to it by the earthquake. In a very short time everybody was out on the streets. Then we could see many buildings that were injured, and almost immediately fires began to start in various parts of the city. At first these did not attract much attention, as everyone was talking of the earthquake and supposed the fires would soon stop. But when they continued to spread and people found the water supply had been cut off, some began to fear the fires would do considerable damage. Still the greater fear all day Wednesday, seemed to be that there would be another shaking. The Chinese were almost all out of their homes all day. The Plaza above Kearny and between Clay and Washington streets was filled with Chinese women and children and some men with their families. About one o'clock the crowd began to leave the Plaza and to go up the hill, as the fires had come then to within a block of them. From that time until eleven and twelve o'clock at night groups with their bundles could be seen. It was pitiful to see the women and girls, with their small feet hobbling along, trying to hurry. All were very calm and I heard scarcely a moan or murmur from any one.

Many never went back again into their homes after the earthquake, and those who did could only take what they could carry in their hands. All of the Chinese women

and girls that we saw, and I think about all, anyway, had friends among the men to help them — fathers, brothers, etc. The earthquake came so early that very few had gone to work.

Miss Clark and I spent Wednesday night with Lee Pok Lin and family on Taylor street. That is four blocks above the center of Chinatown. All night, people of all nationalities and classes were passing, some with their little bundles, others dragging trunks, boxes, etc.

We were only one block above our home. We scarcely thought the fire would come to where we lived, but we took a few clothes with us and a comforter apiece, as we thought if our home did burn we might have to sleep in the streets for some time. We had heard that we could not get to Oakland and other places across the Bay, as the ferry building had been so injured by the earthquake; but between eight and nine o'clock Thursday morning, Herman Lowe (Lowe Huen) came along looking for his mother and told us that he had just come from Berkeley and asked Pok Lin and family to go with him to Berkeley. Pok Lin started off to look for a team to take our things. Contrary to my expectations, he was able to get one and was soon back. Before he returned I started to look after some other Chinese. I did not find them, but found when I came back my company and all my things were gone. I started after them, walking to the ferry, and took the same boat over that they did. Pok Lin and family went to Hermans' and Miss Clark and I found a room near.

I am now staying with Dr. Cook, who was formerly Miss Wisner, and in the Presbyterian Chinese school.

MARTHA J. AMES.

OAKLAND, April 24, '06.

We are safe and well, but lost all by fire. We are busy helping sufferers.

IDA AND JENNIE EGLI.

CERES, CALIFORNIA, April 25, 1906.

DEAR MISS BURDETTE;— It will be one week tomorrow since the terrible catastrophe befell the city of San Francisco. It all seems like a frightful dream, but I know it is not, and that God has spoken. Of course Miss Ames has written you that our schools, all of Chinatown, and our belongings, with the exception of some clothing, have been burned. That our lives have been spared, however, seems to me a matter for so much gratitude that we have no place in our hearts for complaint.

To witness such scenes and experience such things as we have during this past week, seems to change one's whole life.

As the building in which we lived was rocked from side to side as a ship tossed on the waves, except with great jars, which threw books, vases, and loose articles to the floor, while chimneys were falling, and a great tall smoke-stack on an opposite corner of a car barn, fell with a great crash, I supposed the end was near at hand; committing myself and others to God's care, I waited for what should come next. When we were dressed and got out into the street, we could count seven fires breaking out at different points in the business districts. When we got down to Chinatown we found many of them in the Plaza gathered in groups, afraid to return to their homes, where plaster had fallen, windows were broken and fire was expected soon. Most of them huddled near together and did not want to go away until compelled to, as buildings were being dynamited and burned all about where they were gathered. We were able, however, to render slight service by passing about among them, offering words of sympathy and cheer, and later helping different ones to places of safety. Almost all of them carried some clothing, bedding, and food enough to last a day or two. As night came on, we were forced on up the hill and sat about on the stone walls where we all piled the little we could carry with us, and, with quilts and blankets wrapped about us, spent the night.

Pok Lin, his wife and children, were with us, and the next day we found an oppor-

tunity to cross the Bay and get to Berkeley by paying a man and team quite a sum to convey us around the fire to the ferry.



While thankful to escape the flames, as they were fast approaching the place we were, and feeling that I had about exhausted my powers of endurance, for my head was nearly bursting with pain, my heart ached at being obliged to leave the city while so many others were in danger. It seemed the only thing we could do. After reaching Berkeley, we left those we were with and found a place to stay that night, and the next day went to Oakland. saw Mrs. Johnson, found the Misses Egli were safe, and between both Oakland and Berkeley, were able to locate quite a number of our Chinese people. The Baptist pastor, Mr. Helsley, at this place, asked Mrs. Johnson to send one of the refugees down here. As she insisted I was the one to come, I came yesterday afternoon and expect to return to Oakland Thursday morning to attend the conference

to be held there Thursday and Friday by Drs. Chivers, Woelfkin, and the others associated with them in the evangelistic conference. At that time it is supposed that all of our workers will meet and see what can be done to reconstruct the work.

I am hoping and praying that *great good*, to all who will accept it, is going to come out of this thing which now seems so dreadful. While coming down here yesterday on the train which was packed with people who were fleeing from the thronged cities about the Bay, it was my privilege to talk with two young boys of about seventeen or eighteen years of age apparently, who were returning to their home in Southern California from San Francisco, where they had been working. One of them said he was so frightened by the earthquake that he became unconscious and that he had been *shaking* ever since. He was a Catholic but seemed to find little consolation from what he knew of faith in God. Taking my Bible from my satchel, I read him first of all the promise which helped me most through this and other times of need, Mathew 28:20; then Psalms 46:23, and 91, after which he called the other boy to him and asked me to read them to him. He told me they both smoked cigarettes and could not stop, but said he believed that the One who could shake things up so ought to be able to help them stop. So it seems that now many will be responsive to the message of the Word and I long to be of use in carrying it. I think that individual work will tell *most* for some time, and I shall be happy if I may yet have the joy of doing it. I only know the whereabouts of a few of my girls now, but just as soon as I get back, I shall continue to look for them until I find them.

Aside from a severe cold I am all right, and expect to leave that here. Such kindness as has been shown by many of those who were able to do anything could not be surpassed, and I know God will bless it and them. Courage has been needed but "His Grace was sufficient." My love to all.

CLARA LOUISE CLARKE.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31st, 1907.

Miss Ames writes: "Within a few days after my last annual report was made, occurred the terrible earthquake and fire which destroyed so much of our fair city and all of Chinatown, including our mission and schools. Yet, although the calamities were



so great, we recognize the great mercy of our Heavenly Father in the preservation of the lives of the missionaries, the Chinese Christians, and of the pupils in our schools and their friends.

"At first the Chinese were scattered considerably to various neighboring localities, but after three or four months the greater part seemed to fix upon Oakland as a temporary home.

"The condition of a few perhaps has been improved, but the mass are living in miserable homes either in old houses or in buildings that have been most cheaply constructed to accommodate these people in their extremity. Many homes are destitute of furniture, with the exception of a rough table, a stool or two and a few empty gro-

cery boxes about. Rents have been very high. Many have failed to get work, and have been helped by friends, but these sources of help are failing, and there is a spirit of unrest among them and an anxiety for the future. Especially since New Year's quite a number of the smaller boys of ten and eleven years of age are going to work.

"One thing particularly noticeable at this time is the decrease in idol worship among

these people. The idols were destroyed in the fire and it has not been easy to replace them, and many have no desire to do so.

"No Joss house or heathen temple has been erected since the earthquake. Some say the Chinese are waiting for the richer merchants to become reestablished in business, after which these merchants will give the large sums that they must have to build such a temple as they want. Others say it will be difficult to raise sufficient to build a fine temple, as since the earthquake, when many called to their idols for help and spent their last cent to propitiate them, the people have lost confidence in them and will spend no more money on them.

"It is a time when we should put forth every effort possible to show these people that there is a true God who can help in time of need and who is waiting to bless those who truly seek His face.

"We opened two of our schools about three months after the earthquake, and the kindergarten two months later. These schools have been quite well attended.

"As rents are high, and rooms hard to find, we are in small quarters and necessarily must put up with many inconveniences. Our school furniture, books, and all material were burned. Some of these have been replaced, as we have been able to buy them, or as they have been supplied to us by friends, yet there are many things we still need in order to do good work.

"I have visited in the homes as I have found time to do so. During the earlier part of the year, soon after the earthquake, it seemed as if many were more open to the Gospel message. But later they became more anxious about their worldly affairs, and it seems as if they think they can not take time to consider anything else. Yet in one way and another, the knowledge of the true God is spreading and we believe in His own good time there will be a precious harvest."

From MISS CLARA L. CLARK: "It scarcely seems possible that in a few days from now a whole year will have passed since the terrible experience which removed us from

San Francisco to Oakland. For some time it seemed hard to forget the loss of many needful things which were burned, among them all my books, but all this God has graciously helped me to see must have been by His permission, and so will be among the 'all things' that work together for good. I have been glad that we could possibly get along in a very small room, which, until recently, we have been using for our girls' school. Over and over again we have moved every article in it, hoping thereby to gain an inch or two, and each time has resulted in some little gain. One thing, the girls in the school have seen what can be done to keep a degree of order and cleanliness under trying circumstances and they have mentioned it at various times. Of course, we enjoy the larger room to which we have recently moved, and are indebted to Mr. Caldwell for three long narrow tables so that the girls may all face in one direction instead of sitting around the one larger table, as formerly. Two of the girls have married during the year, two are in San Francisco, two have returned to China, three more will soon go, and several have been compelled to remain at home to work. Among the latter, I want to tell something of three sisters who came to school more regularly than any others, and who were more attentive to their studies. They have learned quite a number of gospel songs, always copying them in books kept for that purpose, that they might sing them at home. These books were burned, but to my delight, one day, when calling in their little room over the factory from which their work comes, as they sewed away they sang one after another of these songs, remembering very many of the words of at least ten of them. One girl said her favorite hymn was 'I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,' and another, that her choice was 'The best friend to have is Jesus,' and a third added that she loved to sing 'There is sunlight in my soul.' I can assure you that I went back to my school feeling new courage and hope had been given me to work on, and trust. It was not long after this that I found among the number returning to China were the two who had been most regular in attendance this year, and, as a consequence, I had been enabled to spend many hours with them. The older one of these especially



seems to have grasped the truth, and has been a help to me in the school. Lately we have had several new pupils come in of younger girls, and she reads the Bible lesson to them in Chinese, leads in prayer, and helps in other ways. They have learned how to study and to apply such knowledge as they have in gaining more, which seems to me important. There are many other things which I would like to tell you, but must be satisfied to relate one other circumstance.

"I was asked to conduct a Sunday afternoon meeting at the 'Seaman's Rest,' and was thinking over the topic at noon, when these girls began to sing, 'Trust and obey.' As this was just in line with my topic, I asked if they would go with me and sing that hymn. They consented, and I have great reason to believe that God blessed the singing to the singers, and to those who listened. The next morning one of them said to me, 'My heart very glad when I go home last night.' I believe God will finish in these hearts the work He has begun, and even if I shed many tears when I learned they were soon to go to China, I blessed the providence that had granted me the privilege of sowing the seed in His name."

MISS JENNIE J. EGLI in her report for 1906-07: "It is just a year to the day since I have sent my last report to the Women's Baptist Home Mission Society. In one way the year has been a long one, many things having occurred during that time. Then, again, as I said in my last letter, as so many of the children are the same ones I had in San Francisco, it seems as though there had been no interruption in the work.

"I am very glad to be back with the children and they all seem glad to see me. They are as cute as ever. One little girl rushed up to me the first morning, and throwing her arms about me, said, 'Me likee you.' Later on, when she had to be corrected for something, she said, with a great deal of spunk, 'Me no likee you.'

"It is surprising that we have so many children when there is such a feeling of unrest among the Chinese. They are all anxious to get back to San Francisco. I hope

the day will come when we can have a fine large mission building all our own, with a light, sunny room for each department."

MISS MARY E. BERKLEY, reporting her first work among Chinese in America, says: "I arrived in Portland, October 25, 1906, and so have been on the field only five months of the year. For the first time in my life, I am associated with a foreign people speaking a strange language, and having manners and customs entirely new to me.

"My first Sunday I attended the school for the little ones, and then called with Miss Senn upon two Chinese families. In one house were six women, four in Chinese dress and two in American. They gave us each a cup of tea as soon as we were seated. They seemed very happy, laughing and talking in their language — all very strange to me. One woman had a little baby boy, a cunning little fellow, rather odd looking in his long pants, and very proudly the mother showed us how he could walk.

"One question was ever in my thoughts, 'What can I do to help these people?' On Monday, a Chinese woman and her daughter called at school to ask me to teach the mother in her home. I promised to begin the next day. She said she hoped I had come to stay, for just as they began to get acquainted with a missionary, she went away. That had been the way with the three who had preceded me on this field.

"On Tuesday, some more calls were made. In one home we found a large family of nine children. The father had died a short time before and the mother was planning to return to China. Would that she might take with her the love of Christ in her heart.

"Another woman upon whom we called was very sick with asthma. She is the poor woman with the bound feet. She wants to learn to read but is not strong enough yet. After making these calls, I began the work of teaching a Chinese woman to read English. She works hard and is ambitious, and yet she allows other things to take her attention from her study. It is not surprising, because her mind has never been trained to habits of study and application.

"Another woman to whom I give the same amount of time is learning very fast.

She has finished the book in which she had read a few pages, 'First Steps for Little Feet in Gospel Paths,' and is now reading the Third Reader. She is also studying 'First Lessons in Geography,' and the 'Primary Arithmetic.' The writing in her copybook is almost perfect.

"I enjoy this work of teaching in the homes very much. The school work was hindered in January, on account of the bad weather, and in February on account of the Chinese New Year. It took nearly the whole month of February for the Chinese to prepare for and to celebrate their New Year. Houses were cleaned and new clothes were made. The Chinese children were kept home from school to assist in this work. Some days we had very few in attendance. The first day of their New Year came on the twelfth of February, but the visiting and celebrating were kept up for two weeks.

"The month of March was occupied in efforts to recover from these interruptions and to get back to our regular work and usual numbers.

"For two weeks of this month, on account of the illness of the lady who superintends the night school for Chinese men, I took charge of that work. So there has been a variety in my teaching; first at my own home in the mornings, then in the Chinese women's homes at one o'clock, then at school with the children at two o'clock, and, lastly, with the men at night.

"We have, also, school for the little ones Sunday afternoons, and Bible school for the older ones Sunday nights. I do not teach in the latter, but I attend, for it gives me an opportunity of meeting the Christian Chinese women.

"I had hoped to be able to report at this time the organization of a missionary society of the Chinese women. I talked with them about it, and they seemed to favor it, so a meeting was arranged for, and very well attended. However, it was thought best not to form a society, as there is one among the Chinese women of other denominations and some of our members attend their meetings.

"Easter night we had some simple exercises by the children of the day and Sunday

schools, which brought out some of the parents and others who do not usually attend any of the services. The children did their parts well, both singing and reciting, and I think the people will be glad to hear them again. At the close, one of the Chinese brethren sang an Easter solo very nicely, and another one explained, in their language, the meaning of the resurrection.

“I know that but little has been done in these five months, but I pray for the blessing of Him who can use the weak things for His honor and glory.”

MISS PAULINE SEEN

Miss Pauline Seen, whose interesting report for 1907 follows this sketch, was born on March 21, 1883, in a little village near the city of Canton, China. Her parents were Chinese and during their earlier lives were heathen. Later they became Christians and soon after their conversion united with the Baptist church.

Miss Seen was educated in the schools of China. Her father was a teacher and his daughter attended his school until he died, when she entered the mission school in Canton, and later, the boarding school under the Southern Baptist Convention, of which Mrs. Graves was principal.

Miss Seen was converted when she was a little girl. She grew up in the atmosphere of a Christian home and was baptized in the city of Canton in 1893 by Rev. Fong King Hin, a Chinese pastor. A realization of the value of souls among her own people led her to accept the call of her Master and offer herself as a missionary. She spent two years and a half in the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago. Visiting in the homes of the Chinese confirmed her in the impression that she should give her life to helping these, her brothers and sisters, to a knowledge of Jesus. The great need in Portland was considered in her appointment for that field.

At a later date, Miss Seen entered upon a course of study in McMinn University.

Writing of her work in Portland, she says: "Perhaps you have heard that some of the Chinese are very devoted, to their old country, especially concerning their idol worship. Many times I tried to tell them this true and living God, that they thought was the American God, was the maker of Heaven and earth. Some thought if they worship the true God they can worship idols at the same time, but as soon as they learn that serving this God they must give up their other gods, they do not care to hear any more about Him.

"Recently, some of the buildings which were occupied by several Chinese families have burned down and have to be rebuilt. The Chinese seemed to have a hard time to find shelter, as Americans would not rent any rooms or houses to them. For this reason many were compelled to leave the city. Some went to China, others moved to other cities. Owing to this, our field became small. I was told that two years ago there were about four thousand Chinese in this city, but now there are only two thousand. So I think the work here is more needful, for if they go away they perhaps will never have the opportunity to hear of Jesus again.

"One afternoon I called on a woman who has a friend come from Astoria, Oregon. This friend I found quite ready to learn the Gospel. She has been wanting to know more of this Jesus. For a time she told me that her mother was a Christian and a member of the Baptist church of San Francisco thirty years ago, but she herself has never had a chance to become a Christian. I talked with her for nearly an hour. Then I asked her if she believed in Jesus. She said, "Certainly I do." She went to the American church nearly every Sunday in Astoria. She told me she was going to be baptized soon. I am so thankful for the opportunity to see this woman really open her heart to confess Christ as her Saviour. There are many of these women who know that the Jesus doctrine is good, but they have not the courage to stand up against the opposition of husband and friends. During this time the Chinese have moved from place to place, many have given up their idol worship.

“I love the children very much and love to work with them. Every year we have some new ones come in to be trained. They are so restless and noisy when they first come, but after awhile they learn the rule of the school and make very nice children. A number of the children who belong to the school will go back to China soon, but they will not forget the Bible lessons and the songs they learned here. They wanted to buy the song books so they can sing on the steamer and then use them in their homes in China. I am in hopes that some day some of these boys and girls will bear fruit for Christ.”

NEW YORK

Mrs. Fung Yuet Mow, is the accomplished wife of Rev. Fung Yuet Mow, the pastor of the Morning Star Mission in Chinatown, New York. Her specific work is among the women of that district. Her report is most interesting and shows some of the difficulties the missionary encounters in carrying the Gospel to these restricted women.

Mrs. Mow writes thus:—

“I thank God that he has given me the privilege of working for Him among our fellow women in New York’s Chinatown. I am the only woman Chinese missionary among our people. My daily work is mostly in visiting them. I hold a prayer meeting at one of their homes once a month, with about eight or ten women. During the last year two of our women gave up their old religion to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“I have difficulty in getting our women to go out of doors. Some of them do not go outside the house for months, so that I have to go to call on them by the high stairway. More of the women stay at home to do sewing to earn money for their husbands.

“I consider that missionary work for the Chinese families can only be done by the Chinese woman missionary, who understands the language and customs which are so different from the American, and it is so hard for the American and the Chinese to understand each other. I thank God that most of these Chinese families are glad to receive

me into their homes and listen to me as I tell them of the Gospel. I pray God to help me win many of these souls for Christ. Some time ago I could only talk to them about our God, as they could not read the Bible with me because none of these women had ever been to school. So in the beginning I had hard work to teach them Chinese, until they became able to read the Bible. Now I have three or four of them who can read the Bible. I believe these women learn the Gospel from me, and when they go back to China they will tell of Jesus Christ to others in their native tongue. So the American Home Missionary Work will reach to China.

“The wife of one of our merchants has been studying the Bible with me three or four times a week. Now she is, perhaps, to go back to her home in China. May be God is sending her back to work for Him. We have also a kindergarten for every day. It is supported by the New York Kindergarten Association. About fifty children of different nationalities come — Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Jews and American — every day and they all talk English and enjoy being together, and they all learn to worship God.”

1908

In 1908 Miss Ames reports: “The first ten months of the year I was in Oakland, teaching in the boys’ school most of the time. At the beginning of the year we had a full school, but from the summer to the close, our number decreased, as many of the Chinese were moving back to San Francisco. We decided to open school here, which we did just after the Chinese New Year, February 10th. We had a number of very nice boys in Oakland, who were with us for some months. We were thankful for the opportunity of teaching them some Gospel truths, which we pray will remain with them.

“During January I visited in the homes considerably. I found some more favorable toward Christianity than they used to be, especially parents of children who have done well in school. In quite a number of the homes I saw that the people had taken back their idols. They are not quite satisfied in throwing away all forms of worship and re-

ligion. How much I wish we had more influence in persuading them to look to the true God for the help they feel they need. Many I believe know Christianity is true, but to



accept it means more of a sacrifice than they are ready to make. There is a great eagerness for getting money; greater it seems to me than before the earthquake, and many are afraid that being a Christian might interfere with this.

"Chinatown here in San Francisco is pretty well rebuilt, but rents are high and people are living in just as small rooms as before, and life seems hard for many.

"Since coming back we have preaching services on Sunday and Sunday school, which are fairly well attended. A week ago we had a meeting for women and children. Two of our Christian women gave very good Gospel talks. Also Miss McMinn, who has worked in China for several years and speaks Cantonese well, and who is now working here, addressed them. All seemed interested.

"One man, who was formerly a pupil in our school for a number of years, and never attended any other until he commenced attending medical school, is preparing to become a medical missionary to China. I feel sure he will do a good work, as he is a very faithful, conscientious Christian man.

“Our mission is being rebuilt, and we hope to be in it within three or four months. It will be much better adapted to our work than the former building.

“We are hoping that after we get into our new quarters and the Chinese get more settled in their homes and business, more effective work may be done, and that many of these people may give earnest heed to the words of life which we are trying to give them.”

Miss Clara Clark was very successful in her work with the older Chinese girls, who grew to love her very dearly, but in the fall her health became seriously impaired and she was led to resign her commission. Her nervous breakdown was due in part, doubtless, to the strain of the trying experiences connected with the earthquake and subsequent events, as well as the stress of the work. In December she left California and went to the home of a brother in South Dakota, and from this place she sent her resignation to the Board.

Miss Ida May Egli says: “For the past three months we can report only hard work and seemingly little result, but we are not discouraged, having long since learned that much digging is required to find the diamond.

“The conditions that confront us here in Chinatown would be depressing indeed, did we not know that the darker the night of sin, the brighter the morning sun of righteousness. Satan has certainly raised his fortifications within these borders, and from a human standpoint they would seem impregnable, but we remember Gideon’s army and

‘When obstacles and trials seem

Like prison walls to be,

We do the little we can do,

And leave the rest to Thee.’

“It will be remembered since the fire our school work has been conducted in Oakland. Just a few weeks ago two of your four workers came to San Francisco and reopened the day school. As our mission house is only in process of construction, we were obliged to rent rooms temporarily for the school, and that was not an easy matter, for neither Chinese

nor white owners of buildings cared to rent to Christians who might see and report conditions which, by law, ought not to exist. Finally, however, some rooms were secured in a tenement building, and here we are endeavoring to carry on our work for the Master, while Satan lurks at our very doors in every form of wickedness.

"In the same building, directly above us, a heathen Chinese school is conducted where Confucius is worshipped. In a room across the hall from us are opium beds, and in another are the remains of a gambling den raided one afternoon by the police, who gained entrance after the strenuous application of hatchets to the door. Below us is the continual performance of an immoral show conducted by white men. Indeed, the gambling and opium dens are frequented by white and colored men as well as by the Chinese. All the saloons in Chinatown are conducted by white men, and it would seem that the Chinaman must learn to drink, whither he will or no.

"To teach little children of these tenements to discriminate between right and wrong, to love the good and hate the evil, and through them to reach the hearts of the parents in order to win them for Christ, this is what we are here for, and this, with your help and prayers, we have been endeavoring to do. Shall we continue in this work? By His grace we will."

MISS JENNIE JUNE EGLI writes of her work: "We are very glad to report the flourishing condition of the Chinese kindergarten, of Oakland, Cal. There has been a steady increase in the attendance during the past year, and we come to the last month with an enrollment of thirty-three and an average attendance of twenty-one. We have had fifty-two different children during the year.

"The attendance at Sunday school is more encouraging also, and the children have enjoyed giving their pennies each Sunday, the collection for the year amounting to \$2.18. One dollar of this was sent to help the little Indian children, the rest being used for Sunday-school supplies. The Chinese are more and more interested in the education of girls, and we are happy to state that half the number enrolled in the kindergarten are girls.



MISS EDNA SHOEMAKER AND HER CHINESE SCHOOL.

“Slowly but surely the Chinese are beginning to have more faith in the Christian religion. During the Chinese New Year, while making our New Year’s calls, we visited in the home of a former San Francisco pupil. The father was lying in an opium stupor on a Chinese board bed. He did not give us credit for knowing what the big pipe and lighted taper meant, but, raising himself on his elbow, apologized for his illness. The little girl had been in our school for several years and was an unusually attentive and obedient child, but since the earthquake she had been sent to the public school. Upon inquiring as to her welfare, we were told by the father that she was a bad girl, that she ran away from home and was altogether unruly, and then to our surprise he added, ‘Teacher, I wish you take her Baptist Mission get wash.’ To those of us familiar with the broken English of the Chinese, we at once understood that he wanted her baptized, realizing that if she were a Christian she would be a better girl. We tried to explain to him what conversion and baptism meant, but he was too stupefied to take it in and would only repeat, ‘Yes, I want you to take her get wash.’ Of course, At Yook was not yet ready for baptism, and we tried to persuade the father to allow the child to return to our school, where she would receive daily Bible instruction, but as yet we have not succeeded in this.

“There are many such homes as this, where the influence of a missionary’s life would count for much.”

MISS EDNA SHOEMAKER says: “The past six months of service — five as teacher of the older girls, and the past month as teacher of both boys and girls — have been full of promise and blessing.

“Besides taking an interest in the secular studies which to them are the attraction, they have committed many vital Scripture verses and learned to sing a large number of Gospel songs, which they enjoy exceedingly.

“Two of the older girls wish to be baptized now but have not quite the courage, owing to the fact that their parents are heathen. We hope they will soon have the courage of their convictions, however.”

MRS. POK LINN is doing a splendid work for the pupils in general and the older girls in particular. Altogether the work is an encouraging one, and promises to be exceedingly so, as we look forward to being in San Francisco by fall, with more commodious quarters and better equipment for our service.

Months of service, six; number of girls enrolled, twenty; average attendance, twelve; number of boys enrolled, since February, thirteen; average attendance, ten.

MRS. POK LINN did not send a separate report, but the value of her work will readily be inferred from the reference to her in the letter from Miss Shoemaker. This speaks as forcefully as anything she might have written herself, perhaps more so.

NEW YORK

MRS. FUNG Y. MOW reports: "During the past year's work I am thankful that I have been given good health and can be His message-bearer to my fellow women of New York. For it is said that 'whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' 'How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard, or hear without a preacher?'

"There are only three square blocks, with the streets Mott, Pell and Doyers running through them, to which belongs the name Chinatown. On week days there are about two thousand Chinese here, but on Sunday there are about six thousand. There are about sixty families, with eighty children. It seems that the field is not large, but the work is very important. A few years ago none of the women knew our Saviour and also did not even know how to read in Chinese. They will not come to our mission to attend the meetings and the men will not come and join the men's class. All these families are living in the tenement houses, five or six stories high. I enjoy bringing the glad tidings to them and seeking to save them.

"Since the past year's work three women were baptized and five of them are learning

to read the Bible with me. With God's grace all of these women have become my friends. If any sickness occurs in their families I send the doctor to them and bring them assistance. With our Lord guiding, I find here a great opportunity to do His work in this little field. Jesus said: 'I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me.' It seems as if the Gospel goes with charity.

"We have about fifteen Chinese children attending our kindergarten and the rest of them are Italians. The grown children attend the public schools. Most of the boys come to our mission in the evening and the girls stay at home to assist their mothers. The Chinese are now desiring to give education to the girls as well."

OREGON

MISS MARY BERKLEY sends this word of cheer: "The year just closing has brought some changes, but on the whole, the work has been much like that of the preceding year. I feel that I have gained somewhat in knowledge and understanding of these people. I hope, too, that I have their confidence to a still greater degree.

"Our school has been kept up during the entire year, with the exception of nine days at the time of the Chinese New Year. When I took my vacation in August, Miss Senn continued the school, and when she took hers in October, I kept the school.

"Since the first of October, Mrs. Seid Gain, one of our Chinese sisters, has been assisting us by teaching Chinese to the children. She comes two days in the week and her help is very much appreciated. She does this without pay; she wants to do it 'for Jesus,' she says.

"Since the Chinese New Year, which occurred February 1st, the attendance at the school has not been so large as it was previous to that time. The reason is that many have started to the public schools. It seems natural and right for them to do this, for they have advantages and opportunities there, which we cannot furnish with our limited means.



TIMOTHY AND PAUL.

"One family has taken the children out of school because they are preparing to return to China.

"There seems to be a feeling of unrest among the Chinese, and many are going back to their native land. I have been told there were ten thousand here four years ago, four thousand two years ago, and two thousand now. Two members of our mission have gone within the year.

"We have had some additions to our school during the last month, all children of the kindergarten age, but not enough to fill the places of those who have left. There are others who might come if there were any way of getting them to school and home again. But the families are scattered, making the distance too great for one person to call for all. I take the children from five different homes to school, after having taught the women for three hours. This gives me no noon intermission at all.

"The Sunday school, which I have in the afternoon for the little ones, has not missed a session during the year, and the attendance has been good.

"The Bible school, Sunday evenings, is attended by the men, women, and older boys and girls. I have the class of boys and girls and love to teach them.

"Three of the Chinese women were baptized last September. One of them I am teaching to read. She said recently she would like to be a missionary, but she knew this could not be as she has a family of small children. But she said she would try to bring them up to be good children.

"We had a little prayer meeting in the Bible school a week ago and one of the girls prayed that God would make her a missionary.

"Three times since Christmas I have been asked by the churches and mission bands to have some of the Chinese children sing at their meetings. The children have responded to this invitation very nicely and have thus helped to interest people in the work.

"The teaching of the women in their homes is full of interest to me. I enjoy it because it brings me into such close touch with the women, and I have learned to love

them as I would never have done had I not been thus brought so near them. How my heart longs to see them learning of the Great Teacher! They have shown an increased interest in studying by not taking so long a vacation at the time of their New Year as they did last year. I have had two new ones this month.

“May we have your prayers that the blessing of our loving Father may be upon our labors?”

Further incidents of Miss Berkley's work in Portland give glimpses of child life that are exceedingly interesting. Miss Berkley writes: “Sunday afternoon I have a school for the small children and at night teach a class of older boys and girls in the Bible School conducted by the Baptist Union of the city. As I attend preaching service at the White Temple in the morning, and their Sunday School at noon, acting as substitute teacher, Sunday is a pretty busy day.

“I have been teaching the children in the industrial school to make raffia baskets. They are quite interested in the work and have made some very pretty baskets.

“Among the youngest children at school are a little boy and girl, brother and sister, who are very interesting to me. I call for them every day and as I come near the house I see them at the window watching for ‘the teacher.’ They hurry down the stairs and run nearly all the way to school, they are so delighted to go. They do not talk English at all, but are catching the words of the songs we sing. I was much pleased one day at hearing them sing ‘Come to Jesus.’

“When I called to take them to Sunday school a few Sundays ago, I found the mother washing. She had the tub on the floor and was kneeling beside it, rubbing the clothes. She has bound feet, only two or three inches long, so of course can not stand upon them to work. I think she would not like to have her little girl's feet bound. I felt sorry not only for her crippled feet but that she knows nothing of our Jesus and our Sunday.

“It may seem strange, but into the homes of some of the children who attend our school, I never find an entrance. I frequently go to the house where one family lives,

and in answer to my knock, I hear a voice saying, 'Who?' but the door is not opened. I make some inquiry about the children and the reply is, 'Gone.' And yet these children are very regular in their attendance at both day and Sunday school.

"One of the women, whom I teach at her home, is very fond of reading and recently showed me a work of twenty-one volumes in Chinese which she purchased last summer. It is an account of women's work in all lands and I was pleased that she liked to read it. She very seldom goes out and so has time for study. She sews and does crochet work, nicely, too. She is a dear little woman and I hope may soon be a Christian. She asked me to buy her a copy of the 'Gospel hymns.' She knows a great many of the songs and likes to sing them. She has hanging on the wall in her room, two pictures from the Bible lesson picture roll. At the close of the quarter I give these pictures to the children to take home. Some of the children live in her house and they probably gave them to her, as she has no children of her own. When I see these pictures on the wall, as I do in several of the homes, even though the joss-sticks are burning in the same house, I hope and pray that God may use them to tell of His love for the poor sinful Chinese. Will you not give your prayers for the same object? Without His blessing, all our work is in vain."

MISS PAULINE SENN reports many encouraging features to the work during the year. In a special letter written in October, from which we wish to quote, she speaks of the fact that many Chinese have given up idol worship and have adopted some of the American ways. She also mentions the action of the Chinese government in decreeing that all stores should be closed on Sundays, and its helpful influence on the Chinese in this country. She says: "Even the heathen women in the homes now observe the Sabbath day."

She adds: "I am very much interested in my Sunday-school class of Chinese women. They can read some English and I explain it to them in Chinese. They seem quite interested in the Bible stories and are very faithful in attendance. They also memorize the Golden Text at home and repeat it to me in the class."

Miss Senn rejoices over the baptism of three women.

Glad Tidings from Our Chinese Mission in San Francisco

MISS JENNIE JUNE EGLI

"Joy after sorrow, gleam after gloom."

It was a very happy crowd of teachers and children who took possession of the newly-built Chinese Baptist Mission in San Francisco on the morning of August 3rd. To be sure we had no regular seats, as the furniture company had been delayed in bringing them, so we had to use a few old chairs and we were moved from room to room, sometimes two of us teaching in the same room, on account of carpenters and painters who were still at work on the building, but we were so glad to be there that we made the best of all the inconveniences and noise, and after the first week soon settled down to regular work.

The building is a handsome structure of clinker brick, with tan trimmings, and is very well equipped for all the departments of our work.

On the first floor is the auditorium, with two beautiful stained glass windows, one, "The Good Shepherd," and the other, "The Boy Christ."

The children admire these very much and call them "Jesus windows," and I am sure that all who look upon them must be unconsciously influenced by them.

Back of the auditorium is a splendid Y. M. C. A. room. Above this is the night-school room, which forms a gallery to the auditorium, and above all of these are our four beautiful school rooms.

I say the kindergarten is the choicest of them all, although each has its own advantages and seems to be particularly fitted for the department which it claims.

The kindergarten room with its five big windows into which the sun sends five broad smiles to greet us each morning, is 20 x 21 feet, which allows ample space for the seating of thirty children, a circle, space for teacher's desk, chairs, cupboard and — piano,

which space however is as yet empty, and we do want and need a piano so much. Can you imagine a well-equipped kindergarten without a piano?

The blackboards or rather greenboards are low, running the length of two walls with a shelf above making such a splendid place for pictures, vases and nature-study objects.

And now last, but not least, is the wonderful roof garden. Here the children's feet, hands and lungs are given perfect freedom while they drink in the fresh air and bathe in the glorious sunshine.

Could you have seen and heard the twenty-four babies I took up there the first day the roof garden was completed, you would have been convinced that it was well worth the extra money it cost to place it there.

We have only one regret now; that is, that Mrs. Pok Linn and her two children, Janie and Theodore, cannot be with us. They are greatly missed by all the pupils and teachers and we hope they may some time return to us.

The little tots are as cute and bright as ever. For our dedicatory service on August 30th, the school sang "Sowing in the Morning." As my little ones were all new children I had to drill them a long time in order to have them learn it. One little fellow about three years old learned it and evidently learned to love it too, for each day, as I ask the children what they would like to sing, he says, "Sowing in de Borning." It is an old, old song, but we love to sing it, and it seems so true of our lives, for we seem to be only sowing.

"Sowing in the morning,
Sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing at the noontide."

October, 1909, Miss Jennie J. Egli was transferred to Oakland. In the same month Miss Alice Morton, who was graduated from the Baptist Missionary Training School in June, 1909, was sent to the Kindergarten in San Francisco.

The Board of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society now have as representatives among Chinese on the Pacific Coast, in July, 1910—California: Fresno, Miss Stein, Miss Lota Young; Oakland, Mrs. Amanda Egli, Miss Jennie Egli; Sacramento, Miss E. Wilsie; San Francisco, Miss Martha Ames, Miss Edna Shoemaker, Miss Alice Morton, Mrs. Ko Yuen. Montana, Miss Tabor, Butte; Oregon: Miss Mary Berkeley, Rev. Fung Chak, Portland; and Miss Jane Skiff, Seattle, Washington.



GIVING BABY A NAME.

If there be a single woman who questions the need of work among the Chinese women and children in America, and in their interests, let her read and ponder the statements as given by a missionary in San Francisco. She says: "Little as has been done for the Chinese men, still less, in proportion to their numbers, has been done for the women of the Orient who have come to this country. The conditions that confront the Home Missionary Worker among the Chinese are most serious in San Francisco. Behind barred windows, in dark unhealthful dens, sit Chinese slave girls, the victims of the lust and greed of their masters, bought and sold, degraded and suffering. Often they are little girls—mere children who should find in God's free sunlight and clear air the blessings that belong to childhood. They have no worship except that of incense burning, exploding of firecrackers and other combustible Chinese prayers. Even if rescued, they are not safe, for recapture, in spite of the law, would almost inevitably result if they went on the street without white protection. Is it any wonder that before the opening of the Mission homes in California many a Chinese woman ended her life that seemed so hopeless? One who is thoroughly conversant with Chinese conditions on the Pacific Coast, writes of them thus "We have no need to cross

the seas and penetrate the jungles of far-away tropical lands to find missionary work, a heathenism dark as any found in the wilds of Africa or the islands of the South Seas is to be found at our own doors. Ever since the Chinese set foot on the shores of California, human chattel slavery has existed. The army of custom-house officials, the laws of the land, the power of a united Christian sentiment, backed by the moral sentiment of the whole community, have thus far proved to be but a portiere of cobwebs across the Golden Gate, so far as excluding these yellow-faced slaves is concerned.

"Five thousand of these Chinese women are in California — fifteen hundred of them in San Francisco, two hundred of them but *little slave girls* are slaves in free America. These slave girls on our Pacific Coast have been bought or kidnapped in China, brought to this free country and sold in the silent markets of San Francisco, and doomed to a slavery that is beyond description.

"In combatting these evils the missionary stands almost single handed against a large wealthy association of slave dealers, who are assisted by lawyers and others of our own blood, men who can be bought with highbinders' money. Less intense, perhaps, but none the less pitiful, is the condition of Japanese women on our Pacific Coast. Only Christianity creates homes.

"The Chinese bring their idolatry with them. They set up their heathen temples under the shadow of our Christian churches. There are eighteen of these temples in San Francisco alone. The largest and the finest is that on Waverly Place. The principal idol in it is a great red-faced, hideously-painted grotesque Joss, dressed in gaudy robes, and called Kwan Tai, the God of war. The temple is fitted out with all the paraphernalia of heathen worship. In the temple of Kong Chow Company there was recently sold to a temple keeper, for twenty thousand dollars, the exclusive right for a year to sell the things used in idolatrous worship. Verily, idolatry is not dead!

"The worship of ancestors, the strong belief that every nook and cranny is filled with evil spirits, as well as the grosser forms of idolatry, have wrapped the Chinese in the

most intricate meshes of the most debasing idolatry and superstition. The work of Christianizing this great Gibraltar of heathenism on our western coast is a task which nothing but the divine power of Jesus Christ can accomplish. The Chinaman will never make America his permanent home. This is the very reason why we should give him the Gospel to take home with him. To this nation has now been given one of the most wonderful opportunities that has ever been offered toward helping forward the kingdom of God upon earth. Through the representatives of the Chinese empire, who have providentially come to our shores, we can send back the saving and enlightening influences of the Gospel, thus preparing a belated people to take their place in the world's onward march. How are we meeting this great responsibility? House-to-house visitation among women and children in Chinatown leads up narrow filthy stairs to the third and fourth stories and often into dark basements. The rooms are more than crowded, many without windows or means of ventilation, save possibly through transoms less than seven feet square in area, the odor almost unendurable. Whole families are packed in these little boxes of rooms.

"The Chinese are harder to reach in this country than in China. They are not going to change their religion until they are convinced that they have found something better. They suppose that all Europeans are Christians, while the fact is that the class of Europeans coming most in contact with the Chinese are not Christians, but very far from it. Those who hang around Chinatown are far more degraded beings than the very worst of the Chinese, and the manner in which the Gospel is represented to these poor people is to say the least, extremely confusing. They often say "Missionary tell us get Holy Spirit in your heart. Make bad man good. No more cheat. No more steal. Make him good. I see white man. He says he Christian. He not good. Lie, cheat, swear, all same heathen Chinee.

"The slave question alone is enough to arouse righteous indignation in the heart of every person who can read and understand the constitution of the United States. Con-



"He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
and carry them in His bosom."

sider the fact that fifteen hundred alone of the slave girls are held as slaves, against their will, behind barred windows, bolted doors and locked gates, watched and guarded by white men employed by the slave owners for the purpose of preventing these poor victims from escaping to the missions. These white men receive good salaries for their nefarious business, and the girls are compelled to lead a life of shame no matter how young and tender their years, nor how much they abhor the life. The slave owner has paid between \$1,500 and \$2,500 for his chattel and she is his to do with as he may please: to beat, to scourge, to burn with red-hot irons, in case she refuses to make money for him. She is completely in his power. Recently, a nine-months-old baby girl was sold for \$350, the money going to pay for the balance due on her parents' wedding feast. The little girl will be raised as a domestic slave, when old enough will be sold into a life of slavery and shame for the sum of \$2,000 or more. These slave girls are often maltreated and compelled to carry burdens far too heavy for their strength and years. Girls ranging from seven to ten years are obliged to carry a large bouncing Chinese baby boy strapped to their backs, where he takes his nap in the daytime. I have seen these little ill-fed, poorly clad little creatures, carrying a boy from a year and a half to two years old, their bent bodies swaying under the burden, and in going down an inclined street spreading their feet to balance themselves. Woe to them if they should happen to fall with their burden — the precious son and heir!

"The children of the master are often tyrannical to the slave girl. To illustrate, we have the case of the little Kwan Ho, who was found crouched in a corner of the "Chamber of Tranquility" in the horrible presence of the dead and dying, and burdened with the thought that she was there to remain without food until death should release her from her sufferings. The horrors of this place can never be adequately told, with its filth, its stench, its vermin, and its gruesome darkness, but little Kwan Ho was kept there for twenty-four hours — a poor little cripple, suffering intensely from a cruel injury to her spine, caused by a blow with an iron rod in the hands of one of her master's children.

"It is much harder to rescue slaves now than it was hitherto. The slave dealers are bolder. Upheld by the officials, they break the laws and defy us and all our efforts to rescue the girls. Recently the entrances to several alleys have been boarded up, the gates being guarded, after being padlocked. The guards are white men. On the outside of the gate is posted this notice "Private. No white person allowed within the gates *with* or *without* guides." Within these gates are several hundred slave girls who are living vile lives at the command of the greedy master.

"Some of the girls who are forced to lead this life were kidnapped in China. One girl, a tea-picker, was drugged while on her way to her work, carried away and put down in the hold of the ship plying between this port and China. Coached by the Chinese steward, she was taught to say that she had been born in San Francisco, naming the street and number of the house, the room, and that she had been to China to see her grandmother and was returning to her parents. She was shown the picture of the man and woman she was to claim as her father and mother, but who were in fact the keepers of the den. She was told that if she did not learn this story and do as they told her, they would kill her, but if she was obedient they would get her a rich husband as a reward. The poor deluded child, not knowing what was in store for her, learned her part so well as did others connected with it, that she was landed, and as is usual in such cases, was kept in a family house for a few weeks and then put in a vile den. From this den we rescued her a few weeks later, but not until we had made five unsuccessful attempts."

From "Citizens of To-morrow."

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